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Vol. 2, #1117 --- Monday, 9/25/2017
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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St. Maarten & St. Martin

"SXM" Weekly News

*St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source
of Tourist-Oriented News & Information*

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Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is a send-only email address.

For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#) at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by nearly 300,000 people around the world...

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership

Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

This narrow format is easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

http://everythingxml.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

<http://www.everythingxml.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

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- As Electricity Returns, The National Nightmare is Recalled-- Full Damage Analyses May Take Weeks -- Looters Stole Rare Zoo Animals, Too -- Many Restaurants Are Now Re-Opened -- Appeals for Help From Across SXM: How To Respond -- Work Progresses On Holiday Gifts for SXM Kids -- How SXM Could Create a Long-Term Economic Boom -- Keep SXM Weekly News Coming - Free Every Week -- 300+ SXM Discounts Are Yours in Our "Dog Days" Sale, Ending Soon-- Rare SkyMed Sale Now Underway-- Now: Just \$59/month for SkyMed's Best Global Medevac Protection-- Show Your Colors: Get Our SXM Euro Ovals -- Be Ready ...-- #SXMSTRONG*
- Fundraiser Launched by Jeff Jhangiani of DK Gems*

[31 news stories this week](#)

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

Not in Archive version

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Not in Archive version

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

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"Like" Our "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin" Facebook Site:  <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group <https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing/>

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format:

http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format): <http://everythingsexm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive:list=sxmweeklynews>

Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus): www.linkedin.com

Get a growing group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership: http://www.everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

Section Six: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 8/2017)

How To Get a *GROWING LIST of 300+* Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

Not a member yet? See http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. U. S. East Coast, Heads Up: Maria May Be Visiting

As this issue of *SXM Weekly News* was being written Saturday morning, hurricane expert Rob Lightbown of CrownWeather.com was saying that it was increasingly likely that hurricane Maria would make a US landfall somewhere between North Carolina and New Jersey this coming week.

If you live anywhere in that area, or northward through New England, please visit Rob's site, crownweather.com for all the details. Although the storm is not the category 5 monster it was when it hit Puerto Rico, it's also no slouch; today it still packs sustained 115 to 125 mile-per-hour winds with higher gusts.

As always, play attention to watches, warnings, and advisories from local officials. See much more at crownweather.com and in our Weather Center at everythingxm.com.

2. For The Moment, The Tropics Near SXM Are Quiet

In this, one of the busiest hurricane seasons in years and one of the most lethal, we're now in a short respite. The bad news is it's unlikely to continue.

Meteorologist Rob Lightbown is already saying that tropical development in the Eastern Caribbean is likely during the first 10 days of October. Moreover, activity persists across the African continent, where the biggest storms come from during the Cape Verde hurricane season which ends, informally, at the end of October. Hurricane season itself ends November 30.

3. Sunwing, West Jet Pull Out of SXM for a While

Sunwing, WestJet, and Air Canada are three Canadian airlines that normally bring SXM many hundreds of travelers every week during high season. That will not be happening for much of the season this year, since the first two have cut schedules substantially.

For more information on these and other airlines, contact your airline directly or visit their website.

4. Get Up-To-Date Tropical Outlooks, Watches, & Warnings

Major updates to the Weather section of our everythingSXM.com website were completed over the last few weeks.

In addition to many new real-time tropical weather graphics — including satellite images and new loops — our weather site has now been updated with the National Hurricane Center's latest tropical outlook; tropical weather discussion (for true weather geeks); and the latest forecasts, watches, and warnings for all active storms, plus new track models. .

You can access all this information free, as always: just go to everythingsexm.com and click "Weather" in the masthead.

If you are prospectively in the path of any future approaching storm, we urge you to visit crownweather.com and to sign up for their incredibly inexpensive detailed forecasting service. It's by far the best on the web and it can prove highly useful to you, your family, and your business.

As we've said before, if you are in the path of an approaching storm, never use any website for life or death advice: always rely on directives from local authorities.

5. "Today's SXM Weather" & Four Sources of Current SXM Weather Info (Revised 8/28)

Check our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) each day for daily weather updates. You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com, and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

The four sources of current weather info, beyond the two above, are:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well.
- 3) Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming. They were knocked off the air by Irma but hope to be back soon.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

N. B.: *Again...Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*

6. Guaranteed Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals

[SkyMed Travel](#) offers you a 110% Lowest Rate Guarantee for both hotel and car rental reservations worldwide. You can't lose with this, so read this article, sign up free and make your travel reservations directly through [SkyMed Travel](#).

What it Is - How to Join (free for Our Readers & JMB Members):

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 110% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for *Weekly News* readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. *If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number here to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.*

You won't be disappointed.

Changing Your Email Address?

*Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email
and Sign Up Your New One
for your SXM Weekly News subscription
Quickly and Easily
at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com*

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc.

7. Sunwing Airlines Buys Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort

The timing was a surprise — not long after the epochal visit of hurricane Irma — but the bottom line wasn't.

Sunwing, the growing Canadian airline, is buying the Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort and will take over the property starting in November, 2018, apparently after all of the millions of dollars in repairs to damages caused by hurricane Irma have been completed.

Much more on this story is [here](#).

It's Not To Early

To Start Planning

Your Next SXM Trip.

Let Us Give You

About 300+ SXM Discounts

& Other Benefits

In Our "Dog Days" Sale,

Ending Very Soon:

Hundreds of St. Maarten / St. Martin Discounts
& Other Benefits at Great Prices:

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109; One year, \$39http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Four years, just \$89; three years, \$69; one year, \$34 www.everythingsexm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Four years, just \$89; three years, \$69; one year, \$34 <http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

8. Latest Status Update on SXM Timeshare Resorts & Hotels

Go to our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) and click Files (top left on PCs, top right on smartphones) to access the file; it tells you the status update of Timeshares & Hotels.

9. Just Updated: SXM T/S Rentals for 2018 Available from Owners

The timeshare page of our everythingSXM.com website was again updated on Friday. It offers hundreds of timeshare condominiums for rent through 2018. All rentals are directly from timeshare owners, so there are no middleman fees and no commissions. We accept ads only from our JMB Website Supporters members, so you're not dealing with strangers in these transactions.

To see the ads, go to everythingSXM.com and click Timesharing. *Read the notice at the top of the Timesharing page regarding Irma's effects on rentals.*

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

10. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

This section of *SXM Weekly News*, which appears weekly, will provide detailed information about current JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits both for current members and for people thinking about joining JMB.

We now offer about 300 discounts (including those now being rolled out). We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value. Please check this section in the coming weeks as we continue to roll out entirely new discounts and benefits.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, [go here](#).

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

Please Help

[Keep St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Weekly News Coming](#)

[While We Bring You](#)

[300+ SXM Discounts & Other Benefits](#)

In Our "Dog Days" Sale,
[Ending Very Soon:](#)

[Hundreds of St. Maarten / St. Martin Discounts
& Other Benefits at Great Prices:](#)

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JMB Membership Reinstatements: Four years, just \$89; three years, \$69; one year, \$34 <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

11. As Electricity Returns, The National Nightmare is Recalled

As electricity slowly returns to parts of the island — and as locals and tourists returning home start to talk about their harrowing experiences on the island, we're getting a clearer picture of what a monster Irma truly was.

At some point, the words will be more fully communicated: you'll hear them when you return to the island from people who lived through this epochal disaster. Here's one example.

Dawn beach is one of the most beautiful and popular vacation spots on the island. With Oyster Bay Beach Resort at one end and the Westin at the other, and the legendary Mr. Busby's Beach Bar/Daniel's by the Sea restaurant between the two, it was always an idyllic spot from morning until late night. What we've often called a Culinary Village sprang up in the area, featuring Big Fish, Canoa, the two Busby operations, and Spartaco's Infinity restaurant at Oyster Bay Beach Resort (OBBR).

From what we've heard, all of the employees of these establishments made it through the storm OK, though some lost their homes and almost all suffered major storm damage.

One report from a survivor at the height of the storm said boats, cars, and assorted debris were floating in 9 foot deep floodwaters at Busby's during the height of the storm. Many boats in the yacht basin were sunk. But think about this: after it was over, the approximately 16 foot high storm surge and monstrous waves on top of it had left two boats perched *on the roof* of Pier Grocer, the grocery store at the Greathouse Marina opposite Busby's. *On the roof.* Sustained winds of 185 mph, a record unimagined in any previous hurricane, were superseded by gusts of over 220 miles an hour, the same as many strong tornados -- from which no wooden buildings could survive intact and few boats could make it out alive, either at piers or on land.

What If...

See many examples of people who were traveling exactly like you and unexpectedly / suddenly needed an emergency medical evacuation from SkyMed -- www.getskymed.com

You'll see exactly what SkyMed did for them
and how it works.

Get SkyMed protection before you need it
-- just like fire insurance.

Questions?

*Call Jeff on the SkyMed line,
508-747-8281 during
normal business hours,
Eastern Time.*

12. Building Supplies Arriving in Quantity

There has always been substantial competition between the French and Dutch sides of SXM. Now, people on each side seem to be saying that their side, and their homeland (France or the Netherlands) is doing the better job of supplying the massive help the island needs to recover in a reasonable amount of time.

Bottom line, shiploads of goods, vehicles, supplies, and people to help from the respective governments have been arriving regularly. Although normal air service has returned to the French side, the Dutch side airport continues to undergo significant repair as it continues to be used for supply missions and evacuations.

The first order of business was the removal of tremendous amounts of debris, and that process is continuing. Most main roads are clear, but lots of debris is still to be removed from in front of homes across the island.

13. Full Damage Analyses May Take Weeks

Before they can get their arms around the real extent of damages to their properties, owners of the largest resorts and timeshares on SXM need to conduct thoroughgoing damage assessments throughout their properties.

It's not yet known what they'll encounter, but one thing is clear: older or lower quality construction is going to take longer to repair if in fact the can be repaired at all.

The island's timeshare industry is doing it right by starting at the beginning to make sure the necessary repairs don't simply re-make mistakes of the past.

Though hopefully Irma was a once in 500 years freak storm, Caribbean residents know that what happens once can certainly happen again. Residents in Haiti, several hundred miles away also know that major earthquakes and tidal waves can be experienced in the Caribbean just as they can on the West Coast of the US and that, too, needs to be accounted for.

Bottom line, timeshare owners anxious to return to the island this winter should simply hang loose and wait to hear from their respective timeshare developers. All although repairs at some resorts will have some rooms available faster than many people think, Irma was clearly epochal. Enabling tourists to return relatively soon to the paradise we all remember is the objective of everyone on the island, and many people are working around the clock to make it happen.

But... it's going to take a while. Hang in: #SXMSTRONG

14. Our F/B Site: Your Central Resource for Storm-Related Info

During and immediately after the storm, our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) became a central resource for many thousands of people seeking storm related updates and information about loved ones on the island. We also helped a number of people execute evacuations.

Today, our site is continuing in that rather unique role of acting as a primary resource for tourists continuing to monitor the situation on SXM. Every day, more news comes in and is published — from people, from restaurants, from resorts, and from related entities.

To stay ahead of what's going on on the island, take advantage of our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site. *It is still for tourists, by tourists — but today, it has become much more than a place to swap stories about restaurants, beaches, jewelry stores and the like, and more of a place for friends to share stories about everything that's happening now on their favorite island.*

Check it out.

15. Looters Stole Rare Zoo Animals, Too

As we wrote here not too many weeks ago, the St. Maarten Zoo (Park) has had some difficulties lately attracting the funds it needs to keep its head above water.

That became the case literally during hurricane Irma, whose ferocious winds and rain measured in feet were disastrous to the zoo.

Demolished cages released all kinds of rare and endangered animals including a type of crocodile that took advantage of its temporary freedom by devouring some other members of the animal kingdom that had been its neighbors. Many animals have been recaptured but others are still missing. Here is [that story](#).

16. Many Restaurants Are Now Re-Opened

One of the positive, surprising pieces of news we've received over the last week has been the reopening of many of the island's most popular restaurants, most of them on the Dutch side. (Many of the restaurants of Grand Case, which years ago had adopted the Culinary trademark "culinary capital of the Caribbean" in his promotions, are in Cleanup mode, heavily damaged by raging waters and fierce winds impacting construction that in some cases was many decades old, if not centuries.)

Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) includes listings of restaurants which have already reopened. They're in the site's Files area, located on the left side of the homepage if you have a PC and on the right side if you have a smart phone. The same information is also available to iPad users; ask on the site how to access it.

17. Appeals for Help From Across SXM: How To Respond

As we reported here over the last couple of weeks, the worst tragedies on the island with the human tragedies suffered by island residents whose homes were damaged or in many cases destroyed by Irma. Many still have no electricity and no running water and in a number of cases — far more than you'd dare think — no roof.

Shelters continue to be available and both food and water are being distributed on a regular basis -- *but these people are in serious need of help with all the necessities of life.*

Please visit our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) and in the Files area check charities. We posted many charities including those for employees of your favorite resorts. Please help.

18. Work Progresses On Holiday Gifts for SXM Kids

Many of you who have been using our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) are aware that Contessa Aiello, one of our admins on the site, *is working to develop a program under which people like all of us can send multiple shoeboxes containing sensible children's gifts to kids on the island so they don't miss Christmas, 2017 because of the mess created by Irma.*

The program is being developed slowly and meticulously by Contessa and others to ensure that the boxes can be created, shipped, and delivered across the island in time for the holiday, but not so early that they impact the logistics of all the current efforts to help people on the island.

If you are interested in participating — which hundreds of people have already told us they are — please post that on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) and

watch for posts from Contessa and others as the program develops and we flesh out how it will work.

We warmly welcome your participation -- and ask you to please spread the word.

19. How SXM Could Create a Long-Term Economic Boom (Repeat)

Even before hurricane Irma struck SXM, the island was coping with gloomy times economically. Here's a solution we published last week and repeat now; once the island gets closer to full recovery, we honestly believe it should give this option close, serious consideration....

A key consequence of Irma is that it has temporarily shut the door to most of the tax revenue that would normally be coming from tourists during the next few months. Even then, it may take time before skittish tourists — eager to return — actually believe the island is ready and make plans.

A few days ago, a visitor to our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) made a suggestion which, after looking it over for a few days, merits serious consideration in SXM. We'll tell you about it in a minute.

Meanwhile, a long-time friend of ours was on business in Amsterdam when she us a picture of her enjoying a smoke in a marijuana bar there.

Clearly, if it's possible for a hospitality establishment in the Netherlands to offer marijuana commercially, then it shouldn't be an insurmountable problem to make that happen in *Dutch* St. Maarten.

Or would the island rather struggle for every penny in taxes it takes in?

We're serious. Such a move on the Dutch Side would immediately differentiate the island from everybody else. Most people won't care, but others will -- and people who have never visited St. Maarten just might want to give it a second look.

We're not suggesting a wholesale pro-pot launch like Colorado in the United States, where you can buy marijuana laced cookies. All we're suggesting is smokable pot. Decriminalizing marijuana and enabling people to buy it on the island from registered businesses like "smoke bars" (like hookah bars) — and taxing it — could be a substantial boon to the island not only in the initial months after legalization, but even more so as the press picks it up and gives the island millions of dollars worth of free advertising worldwide.

It's a simple idea but its time has come. Think about it, Sint Maarten.

20. Help Us Keep SXM Weekly News Coming Every Week

SXM Weekly News brings you all the most important tourist news from both sides of the island every week — directly to your email inbox.

It's funded by memberships in JMB Website Supporters, our island discount program that delivers over 300 discounts and other important benefits, and by commissions from your purchase of SkyMed medical evacuation memberships from us. See getskymed.com.

Please help us continue to keep you informed with *SXM Weekly News* by joining, renewing, or reinstating your JMB membership. Our benefits cover virtually everything you do on the island from accommodations to car rentals to shopping to entertainment to restaurants and beyond. Activities, jewelry purchases, souvenirs, and virtually everything else is included in our discount program.

You'll find much more [here](#).

21. 300+ SXM Discounts in Our "Dog Days" Sale, *Ending Very Soon*

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109; One year, \$39 http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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22. Rare SkyMed Sale Now Underway

Buy a new SkyMed one, three, or five year membership --OR-- upgrade to a three or five year membership at getskymed.com or by phone at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only)...forward your approval letter from SkyMed to support@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SkyMed Sale along with your full street address and daytime phone number... and we will issue you a new or extended JMB membership for the same number of years.

Limited time only. You've been thinking about doing this -- now is the time. *Upgrade bonus applies to SkyMed memberships bought from us.*

SKYMED Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. Global coverage is available and it's standard on Ultimate three- and five-year memberships. Call us for details.

23. Now: Just \$59/month* for SkyMed's Best Medevac Protection How about SkyMed for \$59 a month for your family?

SkyMed medical evacuation programs protect your pocketbook and your health when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. That's because SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill while traveling. They protect your pocketbook by making it unnecessary for you to pay for a medical evacuation in cash in advance --- the only way to get this level of protection without being a SkyMed member.

Those out-of-pocket costs are huge: upwards of \$45,000 in many cases, and often far more.

*Now, you can get a five year SkyMed Ultimate membership and pay for it monthly at just \$59 per month for your family, which makes it easily affordable to practically anyone (even retirees and AUC students).

Of course, if you prefer, you can prepay for five years at the sharply reduced rate of \$2495 for [JMB Website Supporters](#) members. When you apply, you can get a 10 year price guarantee as well simply by noting on the application that you want an automatic renewal. That's the equivalent of paying \$499 per year for 10 years — an extraordinary price guarantee in times that are tumultuous politically worldwide.

You can also pay the \$59 a month for a month or two then convert to the prepaid Ultimate membership to grab those prepayment savings. For info, call Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only). He can answer all your questions and even help you get signed up. *Please also see the next story.*

Learn more at www.getskymed.com.

24. Traveling This Fall? "Beat" SkyMed's 90-day Pre-Existing Conditions Exclusion

On its annual and multiyear memberships, SkyMed, the medical evacuation membership company, has a 90 day exclusion on pre-existing conditions; after that, they're covered in full. To solve this, simply obtain your SkyMed membership more than 90 days ahead of the date your travel begins.

Jeff can answer all your SkyMed questions and help you through the brief application process and even submit your application electronically. There is no upper age limit to apply, and pre-existing conditions should not deter you from applying either.

Going anywhere in November, December, or January? See www.getskymed.com for more information or call Jeff directly weekdays during normal East Coast business hours at 508-747-8281. (SkyMed calls only.) You can learn more about SkyMed online as well at www.getskymed.com. Email jeff.berger@skymed.com.

25. Get Our SXM Euro Ovals

Printed with green ink on durable bright white stock, varnished for long life, our copyrighted SXM euro ovals have been adorning cars on SXM and around the world for more than 15 years.

You can now get two for \$10 or five for \$15 mailed first class to your home in the US or Canada. You can pay for them by PayPal or by check. If you pay by PayPal, make sure US dollar funds are sent to Jeff@JMBcommunications.com and in the comments section be sure to tell us what you're buying — two for \$10 or five for \$15, SXM euro ovals, and include your current, correct mailing address.

If you pay by check, we accept US dollar checks only drawn on US banks — sorry, no Canadian checks. You can mail them to SXM euro ovals, care of JMB Communications, PO Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. Make the check payable to JMB Communications.

We have a decent supply but we suggest you order quickly. Allow 30 days for shipping. This offer flies south for the winter in October....

We periodically publish pictures of these on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

26. Be Ready...

Think your vacations are full of eventful days? Look at these:

An MD from Florida on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed *which arranged and paid for* an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: big time.

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

A recent Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cole Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases. *SkyMed took its members home in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works.* That one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.35/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger weekdays at 508-747-8281 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone. You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian expat living in SXM or certain other countries.

Nobody is immune: anything can happen anywhere. Do it today. To learn more, visit www.getskymed.com. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see the story about JMB Website Supporters at the beginning of this section.

Your Business
*Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused
Website That Works.*

That's what we do:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

27. SXM Summertime Vacation Giveaway Rescheduled

Our Summertime SXM vacation giveaway is underway and you can now enter. *SXM Weekly News* readers (NOT pass-along readers) can enter up to 10 times per subscribed email address. The drawing has been deferred until January, 2018.

Here is our current prize list. Since this giveaway promotes non high-season visits to SXM, most of these vacations are yours from mid April to mid December, 2018. All vacations are subject to availability.

-- an 8-day, 7-night vacation at **La Vista Resort**, May through December 2018.

-- a 5 night stay (based upon availability April 10-Dec 18, 2018) in an ocean front room at the **Westin St Maarten Dawn Beach Resort, Spa, and Casino**.

-- a 4-day, 3-night stay at the beautiful **Oyster Bay Beach Resort**.

-- Dinner for Two at Davide Foini's legendary **IZI Ristorante Italiano** in Simpson Bay (One winner)

-- Dinner for Two at Marco Ferrante's **Isola Ristorante Italiano** next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort. (One winner)

-- Dinner for Two at **Spiga**, the highly acclaimed Italian Restaurant in Grand Case. (One winner.)

Enter here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

28. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml. Most issues for the past few years are now online.

29. Answers to Your SkyMed Medevac Questions

We've divided this article into a few sections. They are:

-- **About SkyMed**

-- **Types of SkyMed Memberships**

Ten-Year Price Guarantee on New Five-Year "Ultimate" Memberships -- Best Bang for the Buck

-- **JMB SkyMed Bonus**

-- **Answers to a Frequently Asked Question**

-- **See Many Examples of People Who've Needed Emergency Medical Evacuations and Were Taken Home by SkyMed: www.getskymed.com --**

Detailed Features of SkyMed Memberships & Detailed FAQ

-- Contact Jeff About SkyMed

About SkyMed:

What SkyMed Does: SkyMed *Takes You Home*® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. *SkyMed is your free ticket home aboard an ICU-equivalent emergency medical evacuation jet with an ICU-certified medical attendant on board to help make sure everything goes as it should.*

How SkyMed Works: Like clockwork, you're taken from the hospital by ambulance to a waiting aircraft at SkyMed's expense; SkyMed makes all the arrangements and pays all costs for the medical evacuation jet and for the ambulance at the destination which takes you to a waiting team at your destination hospital, which already has your medical records and is ready to start helping you. There are no co-pays, no reimbursements, and no deductibles for SkyMed services, ever. SkyMed arranges everything and pays for all the services it provides.

Anything can happen — but you can trust SkyMed to take you home when you need it most.

What's It Cost? *Without SkyMed, you'll need \$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance to pay for an emergency medical evacuation — if you can make the dozens of calls necessary to set it up in an emergency. SkyMed does all that for you, for a small membership fee; you simply make one phone call 24/7/365 to get things going.*

Why Buy Now? We're offering SkyMed now at very special pricing *for JMB Website Supporters members only — but if you're a nonmember and care to join SkyMed now through us*, we'll enroll you in JMB Website Supporters at the same time (five-year SkyMed memberships only). This offer is available only by phone; email jeff.berger@skymed.com and give Jeff your phone number so he can call you. He'll be happy to answer your questions, tell you about the different types of programs available, and their respective costs. He'll also be happy to fill out your application for an annual or multiyear SkyMed membership by phone and at the same time you can set up a JMB Website Supporters membership (required to get the biggest multiyear SkyMed discounts). Americans, Canadians, and ExPats only.

See www.getskymed.com or email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com (use the subject "SkyMed inquiry") to learn more and get your questions answered.

----- Types of SkyMed Memberships:

First, **short term memberships** are for brief trips in North America, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Mexico -- over 30 countries total. Short-term memberships are very inexpensive, about \$9 per day per person, maximum of about \$15 per day per family. *The disadvantage is that they only cover you for the short term you are traveling: when they expire, your protection disappears, and when you're ready to travel again, you must reapply for a new short-term membership. The process is quick, but you still must be medically approved and at some point, that may be impossible. Bear in mind that many people travel more than once or twice a year, even if it's only a few hundred miles from home. We recommend annual or multiyear SkyMed memberships instead of short-term memberships when you make multiple trips because the cost is about equal. More important, annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable regardless of changes in your health or advancing age. You do not want your protection to end just when you may need it most.*

Second, both **annual and multiyear SkyMed memberships** are essentially permanent coverage. *Once you've been approved and as long as you continue to pay your membership fee on time, your membership cannot be cancelled as a result of advancing age or declining health* — two critically important advantages that ensure you have coverage when you may need it most.

Third, **Ultimate memberships** cover multiple years and provide protection worldwide. The only exceptions are places like Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, North Korea — places you won't visit anyway. (Ask before going anywhere dangerous/unusual.) Ultimate memberships also offer the greatest breadth of coverage. You can see a complete list of all the features and benefits of these coverages [here](#).

Fourth, if you're an **American or Canadian ex-pat** living in St. Maarten / St. Martin or elsewhere outside your country for six months or more per year, you can still get SkyMed protection in the form of an *ex-pat* membership. Email us (see next paragraph) and we can tell you how it works and answer your questions.

In addition to everything else, Jeff Berger has been a SkyMed rep -- and now a SkyMed Ambassador -- for over 15 years. He'll be happy to answer questions; email him at Jeff.Berger@SkyMed.com. He generally returns messages within 24 hours, weekdays. To see [online frequently asked questions, go here](#). You can also see his SkyMed site at www.GetSkyMed.com.

JMB members get serious discounts on all multiyear SkyMed memberships. If you're not already a JMB member, join today and take advantage of those discounts.

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109 Sale Prices Other durations available.
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Ten-Year Price Guarantee on New Five-Year "Ultimate" Memberships

SkyMed is now offering a remarkable 10 year price guarantee on its best memberships, the SkyMed five-year Ultimate. SkyMed ultimate memberships cost only \$499 per year when you pay for their full five year duration at inception. When applying, if you indicate on the application that you want to renew automatically, that renewal will be charged at the same \$499/year rate (prepaid for five years at \$2495) that you had paid *for the full five year new membership at its inception. All SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable regardless of health or attained age: this ten-year price guarantee is remarkable especially considering what you get: see the details [here](#).*

The best way to get your questions answered is to call Jeff directly on his SkyMed line, 508-747-8281. He can also take your application by phone and send it to SkyMed electronically. Most applications are processed within a few business days. Get it today, before you need it — make your next trip worry-free.

Best Bang for the Buck

SkyMed's biggest bang for the buck comes in its five year Ultimate memberships, which offer the broadest selection of benefits and features of any SkyMed membership as well as the lowest price per day of any membership — roughly \$1.30, or \$499 yearly total for your family when you pay for the five-year term at inception.

JMB SkyMed Bonus: Now, when you purchase a SkyMed five-year Ultimate through us either by phone or by visiting www.getskymed.com, notify us as soon as you receive SkyMed's letter of acceptance and we'll extend your current JMB membership by five full years on us. (JMB members only.) If you're not a JMB Website Supporters member, join now — the savings for our members on all Multiyear SkyMed memberships are very, very substantial.

Answers to a Frequently Asked Question:

What's the upper age limit to join SkyMed? There isn't any: apply today regardless of age.

What's the upper age limit to renew your existing SkyMed membership? *There isn't any.* Just pay your SkyMed renewal on time and your membership will continue regardless of your health or age at the time of your renewal. There is no membership cutoff for advancing age or declining health, unlike so-called competitive programs. *And the price of your renewal membership will not increase due to declining health or advancing age.* We know we repeat this... we do it for very good reason.

SkyMed *Takes You Home*® -- what else matters?

Detailed Features of SkyMed Memberships:

Read it for yourself: it beats every would-be competitor hands-down. Look:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

And you'll find **Frequently Asked Questions** here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2015SkyMedFAQ.pdf>

This is an Adobe Acrobat PDF Document. Your system most likely already has a PDF Reader (free) but if not you can get one here: [download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

Contact Jeff About SkyMed:

He'll be happy to answer questions; email him at Jeff.Berger@SkyMed.com. He generally returns messages within 24 hours, weekdays. You can also phone him, about SkyMed only, at 508-747-8281 during normal business hours, Eastern time.

Get The Current Low Price
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership
and keep the current low price on a future 5-yr. renewal.
That's a 10-year price guarantee.
More benefits... same price.

Ask Jeff for details -- see preceding article.

30. ... Plus The SkyMed JMB Membership Bonus -- and More Info

Now when you join SkyMed through us with a one-year, three-year, or five-year Ultimate membership (SkyMed's lowest cost per day but its most feature-rich medevac membership), notify JMB Website Supporters [at supportjmbcommunications.com] upon approval (send us SkyMed approval email) and we'll give you an extension of your JMB Website Supporters membership on us for the same number of years. See *story 17*. Got questions? Call Jeff at (508)-747-8281. SkyMed calls only, please.

Join today at www.getskymed.com.

Email Jeff now: jeff.berger@skymed.com or Call 508-747-8281

SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling, saving you upwards of \$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance (if you aren't a SkyMed member) to set up an emergency medical evacuation yourself. **Get SkyMed BEFORE you need it.** Email us today. SkyMed emails only. Visit www.getskymed.com.

*When applying at www.getskymed.com, you must approve an automatic 5-year renewal. When you do, your renewal will be at the same price you paid when buying your five-year Ultimate through us. Applies to new SkyMed 5-year Ultimate memberships purchased through us only.

31. SXM Strong Fundraiser Launched by Jeff Jhangiani



Jeff Jhangiani of DK Gems is offering these beautiful new SXM STRONG bracelets in gratitude for your contribution of \$50.00 or more (additional bracelets available in increments of \$50.00). They are silver-tone 7mm exclusively.

At least 85% or more of your generous act will go directly and provide tangible, practical relief to those most severely impacted by Hurricane Irma.

Jeff and his associates are working with people on the ground in SXM, assessing what regions and people need assistance most critically and forming a process to move forward as rapidly as possible to assist.

Contributors will receive regular and timely updates on progress and the manner in which the monies are distributed

Listen, if even "most" of club members contribute...what a difference we can make together! It's a perfect way to help the island you love and the people who have your heart AND show your deep pride for all that SXM represents. Let's do this...time is now.

Payment can be made by check or PayPal (sorry, no credit cards).

Orders via email: dkgemsint@gmail.com (NO credit cards, checks or PayPal only)
PayPal: egisalpha@gmail.com

Email Jeff Jhangiani at the above addresses and he'll tell you where to mail your check. PayPal is faster. Delivery is included in the \$50 donation.

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

***2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale* are posted at http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.**

SECTION 5: For Members Only

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsexm.com/secret

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsexm.com. To change your password, click that same link.

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad**: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

SECTION 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) **Updated 7/2017**

See www.everythingsxm.com.

About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 4/17/17)

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. You **CAN NOT** unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

Contact Us (Revised 8/21/17)

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact support@jmbcommunications.com

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

9/25/17 #V2-1118 9/24 9.0

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